

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please amend the claims as follows:

1. (Amended) A stator for an automotive alternator comprising:

a stator core having a plurality of slots; and

a preformed stator coil being a cluster of three phases of connected stator

windings having:

axially parallel portions [being those portions] which are substantially parallel to the central axis of said stator coil, said axially parallel portions comprising current generating portions [being those portions] disposed within said slots of said stator core and generating electric current, and projecting portions [projecting] which project from the axial [end surfaces] ends of said slots; and

bridge portions [being] comprising circumferential portions connecting said axially parallel portions to each other within each of said three phases of windings;

wherein [the] inner circumferential surfaces of said bridge portions are placed in contact with said axial end surfaces of said stator core without any gaps in the direction of the central axis of said stator core, so that the spatial ratio occupied by said [clusters of] stator windings belonging to said bridge portions [in coil ends being those portions of said stator coil] exposed beyond said axial end surfaces of said [slots is at] stator core, has a high density.

2. (Amended) The stator for an automotive alternator according to Claim 1

wherein said stator core comprises:

a plurality of comb-shaped strips each having a band portion; and

A1
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sub
B1
cancel

a plurality of teeth disposed substantially parallel to each other extending perpendicularly relative to the longitudinal direction of said band portion, said plurality of strips being laminated and formed into a cylindrical shape, and [the ends] end surfaces of said teeth being provided with grooves perpendicular to the longitudinal direction of said band portion and recessed portions on both sides of said teeth near said ends, so as to form circumferentially projecting portions.

A2
cont

5. (Amended) A method of manufacture for a stator for an automotive alternator comprising:

a step of manufacturing a parallelepiped laminated body having a plurality of slots by laminating a plurality of comb-shaped strips each having a band portion and a plurality of teeth disposed substantially parallel to each other extending perpendicularly relative to said band portion;

a step of inserting into said slots from the side of the openings of said slots a preformed stator coil being a cluster of three phases of connected stator windings comprising:

axially parallel portions [being those portions] which are substantially parallel to the central axis of said stator coil, said axially parallel portions having current generating portions [being those portions] disposed within said slots of said stator core and generating electric current; and

bridge portions [being] comprising circumferential portions connecting said axially parallel portions to each other within each of said three phases of windings;

a step of extending [the ends] end surfaces of said teeth of said laminated body in the longitudinal direction of said laminated body; and

a step of bending said laminated body to form a cylindrical shape.